

# Edward Jackson Bartlett Collection

## Finding Aid

Bard College Archives and Special Collections

Finding Aid created by Lindsay Jankovitz

### Biographical History:

Edward Jackson Bartlett was born in Hartford, Connecticut on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 1915 to Dr. William Bradford Bartlett and Ruth Jackson. During his youth, Bartlett attended the Fenn School, Browne and Nicholas, and Governor Dummer Academy. Bartlett then attended Bowdoin College for the 1935-1936 academic year, where he became a member of the fraternity, Kappa Sigma. In fall of 1936, Bartlett enrolled at Bard College and graduated in 1940, earning a degree in theater.

A veteran of World War II, Edward Jackson Bartlett enlisted in 101<sup>st</sup> United States Naval Construction Battalion in March 1943 and served until January 1946. During this time, he frequently corresponded with his parents through written letters while he was stationed at Port Hueneme in California and in Okinawa. Many of these letters show signs of censorship. After serving in the war, Bartlett resided in Concord, Massachusetts, as a furniture maker. Bartlett died at the age of 78, on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 1994 in Carlisle, Massachusetts. His wife, Joan Motley, predeceased him in April, 1992.

### Original Order:

This collection was purchased from Charles Apfelbaum Rare Books & Collections by Bard College on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1995. Letters were originally processed by College Historian, Annys Wilson. The original collection is split between Bard College and the Concord Free Public Library.

### Collection Summary:

This collection consists primarily of letters from Edward Jackson Bartlett to his parents detailing his time at Bowdoin College, Bard College, and his service during World War II. It also contains report cards from the Browne and Nicholas School, Governor Dummer Academy, and Bowdoin College. Photographs, postcards describing his travels, a poetry book, and a journal are also present in the collection.

## Contents:

### Series 1: Letters

| <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> | <b>Notes and Named Individuals</b>  | <b>Date Range</b>                                  |
|------------|---------------|---|--|
| 1          | 1             | Report Cards and teacher correspondences from the Fenn School (1), Browne & Nicholas (3), and Governor Dummer (12 correspondences, 44 teacher reports)  | 1930-1935  |
| 1          | 2             | Letters (22), Bowdoin College- Academic Year List of men admitted to Bowdoin College '39  | Fall 1935-Spring 1936                              |
| 1          | 3             | Letters (2), Passenger on the S.S. Normandie (Partial Collection, other half owned/resides at the Concord Free Public Library, Concord, MA)   | July 1 <sup>st</sup> - July 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1936 |
| 1          | 4             | Letters (15), Bard College- Academic Year<br>The following individuals are mentioned:<br><br>John Steinway, '39 (Fellow student, later trustee and chairman of the board):<br>Sept. 16 <sup>th</sup> , Apr. 15 <sup>th</sup><br>Harold Bassage (Instructor in Drama):<br>Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup> , Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup> , Feb. 23 <sup>rd</sup> , Apr. 15 <sup>th</sup> , &<br>Apr. 23 <sup>rd</sup><br><br>Harvey Fite (Instructor in Drama and Sculpture): Oct. 6 <sup>th</sup> & Dec. 3 <sup>rd</sup><br><br>E. S. Williams (Instructor in Art): Apr. 23 <sup>rd</sup> ,<br>May 1 <sup>st</sup> , May 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Fall 1936-Spring 1937                              |
| 1          | 5             | Letters (18), Bard College- Academic Year (Contains NY Times article about possible shut down of Bard College, Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup> )<br>The following individuals are mentioned:<br><br>E. S. Williams (Instructor in Art): Sept. 10 <sup>th</sup><br><br>Paul Morrison (Instructor in Drama): Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup><br><br>Dean Mestre: Jan. 30 <sup>th</sup>  | Fall 1937-Spring 1938                              |
| 1          | 6             | Letters (25), Road Trip Across the Country  | July 1938  |

|   |    |   |                        |
|---|----|---|------------------------|
| 1 | 7  | <p>Letters (12), Bard College- Academic Year<br/>The following individuals are mentioned:</p> <p>Cyril Harris (Professor of English) : Sept. 27<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Paul Morrison (Instructor in Drama): Oct. 10<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Helen Fisher (Bard Nurse): Feb. 14<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Thayer Richards (Associate Professor of Fine Arts): Feb. 14<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Dr. Phalen (Professor of Mathematics and Physics): Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup></p> <p>Vassar College: Bard works on a play with Vassar students, "Till the Day I Die" by Philip Barry</p> <p>April 20<sup>th</sup>: Mentions the drowning of three Bard Students in the Hudson River</p> | Fall 1938- Spring 1939 |
| 1 | 8  | <p>Letters (11), Bard College- Academic Year<br/>The following individuals are mentioned:</p> <p>Dean Mestre: Passes due to complications with Bronchitis</p> <p>Bert Leefmans, '41 (Fellow Student): Oct 5<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Harvey Fite (Instructor in Drama and Sculpture): Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>- World's Fair</p> <p>Dean Charles Howard Gray: Feb. 15<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Andrew Howard Potter Swift, '41 (Fellow Student): Mar. 16<sup>th</sup></p> <p>*One letter to parents outlines his Senior Project experience: Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> (*item acquired separately; gift of Bernie Tieger)</p>  | Fall 1939-Spring 1940  |
| 1 | 9  | Letters (4), Bard College- Summer Theater   | Summer 1940            |
| 1 | 10 | Letters (27), Camp Peary, Williamsburg VA. & Seabees stationing   | May 1943               |

|   |    |   |                             |
|---|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 11 | Letters (15), 101 <sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Battalion  | September-<br>November 1943 |
| 1 | 12 | Letters (8), 101 <sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Battalion<br>Port Hueneme, California   | December 1943               |
| 1 | 13 | Letters (8), 101 <sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Battalion<br>Port Hueneme, California   | January- February<br>1944   |
| 2 | 14 | Letters (24), 101 <sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Battalion<br>Port Hueneme, California  | March- June 1944            |
| 2 | 15 | Letters (34), 101 <sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Battalion<br>San Francisco, California   | July- December 1944         |
| 2 | 16 | Letters (33), 101 <sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Battalion<br>San Francisco, California   | January- June 1945          |
| 2 | 17 | Letters (22), 101 <sup>st</sup> Naval Construction Battalion<br>Okinawa<br>San Francisco, California<br>August 14 <sup>th</sup> : Mentions "Bomb has been<br>dropped, Japan has accepted our ultimatum" | June- December 1945         |
| 2 | 18 | Copy of Bard/ St. Stephen's Directory Entry   | 1952                        |

#### Series Two: Photographs and Related Papers

|   |    |   |                     |
|---|----|---|---------------------|
| 3 | 19 | Collection of V-Mail written to Edward's<br>parents, Dr. William Bradford Bartlett and<br>Ruth Jackson, and Roger Fenn. Examples<br>include Christmas and Father's Day (14) | Varying             |
| 3 | 20 | Photographs (15)<br><br>Obituary for Mrs. Caroline Jackson- Edward's<br>maternal grandma  | Circa 1930s-1960s   |
| 3 | 21 | Telegraph (1), written to Edward's parents, Dr.<br>William Bradford Bartlett and Ruth Jackson (1)<br>Postcards (9)<br>Photograph, Framed                                    | Varying<br><br>n.d. |
| 3 |    | Certificate, Honorable Discharge From the<br>United States Navy   | January 1946        |
| 3 |    | Map, Hill's Los Angeles City  | 1938                |
| 3 |    | Book, Poetry written by Edward J. Bartlett<br>Includes songs in back (not written by Bartlett)  | 1935-1937           |
| 3 |    | Book, Records   | 1928-1929           |
| 3 | 22 | Invoice from Charles Apfelbaum Rare Books &<br>Collections, collection purchase   |                     |